

WROM: FJMVRESKPNKMBIPB

TO: Federal Communications Commission

DATE: May 2, 2003

RE: How media consolidation, and the FCC, are violating America.

Dear FCC,

Media consolidation -- and the FCC -- are preventing American democracy and are violating our Constitution.

To explain, first it is necessary to determine the political bias of our mass media. Which is quite simple to do. Merely examine how the vital issues below have played in the media:

Issue 1: There are angry rumblings in the public about how George W. Bush, in his youth, went AWOL from his National Guard duty for about two years, National Guard duty that kept him out of the Vietnam war. Desertion of duty in time of war has no statute of limitations. It seems our commander-in-chief can be court-martialed by military tribunal today.

Issue 2: During the 2000 elections, the Republican vice-presidential candidate claimed homestead in Texas, proof of Texas residency. Even after he registered to vote in Wyoming, he remained an official resident of Texas as proved by his homestead status in Texas. Our Constitution requires that our President and Vice-President, as candidates and in office, must reside in different States. It's a crucial separation-of-powers thing. It seems our Vice-President was not qualified to run as a candidate, and therefore is not qualified to be in the White House today. By allowing him to stay there, it seems our Congress and Supreme Court continue to participate in that huge separation-of-powers violation of our Constitution.

Issue 3: In the 1980s, the United States helped Iraq kill thousands of Iranians with poison gas. We supplied intelligence, material, and equipment for that mass killing. On the National Security Archive website, see the video and photo of Donald Rumsfeld shaking hands with Saddam Hussein. Both are warmly smiling. Saddam Hussein was our friend.

Issue 4: The FCC has allowed media ownership to concentrate into the hands of a few giant groups of sprawling, interlinked corporations whose tentacles reach into nearly every crevice of our lives. As you sit there on your couch watching the news, they profit from the snack you're eating, from the microwave you warmed it in, from the DVD you'll watch next, from the advertised sneakers and deodorant and car you might buy. Do you think that has no influence on how they flavor the news? Those tentacles also reach deeply into our schools. They pressure our schools to stop teaching core knowledge and skills: respect, responsibility, cooperation, critical thinking, and American democracy (<http://www.seattleairgear.com/civics.htm>). Although educators yearn to grow our children into clear-thinking civic-minded adults, media giants pressure our schools to turn out pliable dumbatrons.

Issue 5: What is the product of media? Information. At the dawn of broadcasting, we created the FCC to prevent the formation of corporate information monopolies that could damage our democracy. Hence the original FCC ownership restrictions, public-service requirements, and Fairness Doctrine. The FCC is supposed to be a

protector of our special American democracy, which requires that We The People receive full and honest information about political candidates and political issues so that we can choose wisely during elections. But the FCC strayed from its public-service path. Two decades ago, the FCC began to strip away our democracy by allowing media ownership to concentrate, by removing public-service requirements, and by eliminating the Fairness Doctrine which gave birth to right-wing hate broadcasting. All that seems to be just the start of the FCC's corporate-backed assault on democracy. The Seattle Times Apr-29-2003: "[Michael] Powell said new technologies and a new regulatory approach will break the "stranglehold" on the marketplace and bring benefits to the people. As examples, he described the proliferation of long-distance providers, wireless phone services and cable offerings." But FCC chairman Michael Powell, and our mass media, NEVER explain how the words "new regulatory approach" are attractive code words for deregulation that intensifies the growing corporate monopoly on information transmitted to the public. In reality, the FCC's new regulatory approach is a tightening of Corporate America's "stranglehold" on information. Well-trained in deceptive public-relations skills by his corporate backers, Michael Powell dazzles us with trinkets of information technology to mask theft of our democracy.

If our mass media was "liberal" -- that is, passionate about fostering the liberty and general welfare of We The People -- all the above issues would have been thoroughly investigated by journalists and thoroughly reported.

But our mass media reported NONE of those issues. Why? Because the issues are scandalous and damaging to Republicans and corporations. If "liberals" were involved, well, we all know what would have happened: our mass media would have crucified them with full-bore Clinton-Lewenski treatments. Blatant right-wing bias is proof positive that "Liberal Media" is a myth, proof positive that our corporate mass media is the voice and protector of the right wing.

For more information about how our mass media and FCC stopped being servants of American democracy -- and became enemies of American democracy -- study our comprehensive plan to restore American democracy to our nation:
<http://www.seattleairgear.com/civics.htm>.

Exactly how are media owners -- and the FCC -- violating our Constitution?
Exactly like this:

To clarify the explanation below, it is helpful to use two terms: "right wing" and "We-The-People wing." Who are these two groups of people?

Before the 2000 elections, 340,000 voters -- 0.1% of our population -- wrote a check for \$1,000 or more and gave it to a candidate for federal office, a political party, or a political action committee (PBS NOW Feb-22-2002, <http://www.pbs.org/now/commentary/moyers2.html>). Call them the "right wing." Our President and our Congress work mainly for them. Mass-media owners come from this group, and serve this group.

The remaining 279.7 million Americans -- 99.9% of our population -- couldn't afford to pay the \$1,000+ to be listened to by their future President, Senators, and Congresspersons. Call them the "We-The-People wing." Hardly anybody in government represents their interests. Mass-media owners, as they serve their right wing, shortchange the We-The-People wing as severely.

Regarding federal elections for the Presidency and Congress, and federal judicial appointments by the Presidency and Congress. The FCC, by loosening and

removing regulations that prevented mass-media information monopolies from forming, today allows a highly-biased highly-propagandized mass media that strongly favors the right wing to inform the public about political candidates and political issues. The political messages contained in programming and news throughout the year, to a very large extent, falsely glorify the right wing and falsely demonize the We-The-People wing. Corporate mass-media political messages are not honest: the information is incomplete, and the information is deceptive (<http://www.seattleairgear.com/civics.htm>). The only way for the We-The-People wing to educate the public is through paid advertising, an extremely tiny percentage of the year-round total of political messages in our mass media. For all practical purposes, only pro-right and anti-We-the-People political messages shape the American public mind because NO OTHER KIND OF POLITICAL INFORMATION COMES FROM OUR MASS MEDIA. In this manner, a tiny handful of media owners -- using unwitting proxies: voters they brainwash with information from their information monopoly, voters educated in corporate-influenced schools that prepared their minds for easy brainwashing -- elect a right-wing Presidency and a right-wing Congress, who then install a right-wing Judiciary.

The FCC made that happen, and in collaboration with media owners plans to strangle our democracy even more brutally.

In doing so, our mass media -- and FCC -- have violated Article I, Article II, and the separation-of-powers principle of our Constitution. And they plan to violate America even more so in the future. Those serious high crimes against our nation are far worse than treason.

Surely our forebears, who won our freedom from Corporate England, would have swiftly dealt with today's media owners and FCC members as traitors.

Respectfully,

Daniel R. Ruuska
Citizen